

## 2008 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Awards Part I: Cover Sheet

Practice Name Character Counts Family Fun Night  
Name of Principal Dr. Elizabeth Hargrove  
Official School Name Catalina Ventura School  
School Mailing Address 6331 N. 39th Avenue Tel. ( ) 602-841-7445 ext. 6746  
School Website http://www.alhambra.k12.az.us  
Phoenix 85019 Email Address tkillingsworth@alhambra.k12.az.us  
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate. If my program is recognized as a Promising Practice the contents of this application may be made available to the public.

B. Hargrove Date 11/28/07  
(Principal's signature)

Name of Superintendent Dr. Jim Rice  
District Name Alhambra School District Tel. ( 602 ) 336-2920  
District Mailing 4710 N. 37th Avenue  
Phoenix 85017 Email Address jrice@alhambra.k12.az.us  
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

James W. Rice Date Nov 29, 2007  
(Superintendent's signature)

## 2008 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Awards

### Part II: Background Information

1. Category that best describes the area where the school is located:

- ☒ Urban or large central city      ☐ Suburban  
☐ Suburban school with characteristics typical of an urban area  
☐ Small city or town in a rural area      ☐ Rural

2. .5 Number of years the principal has been in her/his position at this school.

8 If less than three years, how long was the previous principal at this school?

3. Number of students enrolled at each grade level or its equivalent in applying school building:

Pre-K <u>125</u>	5th <u>120</u>	10th <u>      </u>
1st <u>118</u>	6th <u>114</u>	11th <u>      </u>
2nd <u>139</u>	7th <u>111</u>	12th <u>      </u>
3rd <u>142</u>	8th <u>106</u>	
4th <u>117</u>	9th <u>      </u>	

TOTAL: 1,136

4. Limited English proficient students in the school: 34.5 % 394 Total Number

Number of languages represented: 14 Specify languages: Primarily English and Spanish

5. Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals: 80.5 % 915 Total Number

*If this method is not a reasonably accurate estimate of the percentage of students from low-income families or the school does not participate in the federally-supported lunch program, specify a more accurate estimate, tell why the school chose it, and explain how it arrived at this estimate.*

Catalina Ventura's Character Counts Family Fun Night is an annual event that historically hosts between 400 and 700 students with their families and community members each year. It is an evening to celebrate the Character Counts six pillars and participate in acts of service to others. In the past, our staff, families, and community have collaborated in projects such as: care packages for military troops, making six pillar bead bracelets given to Phoenix Children's Hospital, a welcome bag assembly station to provide each new student to our school with a welcome bag containing a kid friendly map of our campus, a welcome letter, an invitation to lunch the first day of school, and several other goodies. We have also worked with Phoenix Urban Forestry to plant seedlings in peat pots to transplant and help beautify the earth. We have created audio books for the Arizona School for the Blind. Additionally, families learned about the giant panda as an endangered species and what we could do as a school to adopt a giant panda at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C.

Catalina Ventura's Character Counts Family Fun Night is an evening where our staff, families, and community members eat together, play together, and work together to help spread the culture of good character throughout our school and more importantly, the community at large. As a result of some of our Character Counts Family Fun Night projects, we have been able to accomplish the following:

- The care packages we sent overseas led to the "Read to Me, Daddy" project. In this endeavor, Catalina Ventura partnered with Border's Book Stores throughout the metropolitan Phoenix area and hosted a book drive. Through this project, we were able to send over 1,000 books to soldiers who videotaped themselves reading books and sent both the book and the videotape home to their children. This process allowed children the opportunity to have a bedtime story with mom or dad. One soldier, who was a

recipient of one of the books said, "[The children] have overwhelmingly responded to my videos. We recently obtained the use of some webcams and I got to see my kids for the first time in four months. My wife said that after that day, my son, Caleb, has wanted to watch the Daddy videos over and over again. That proved to me that these videos are truly a link between me and my small children."

- As a result of learning about giant pandas, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class was inspired to raise over \$4,000 to adopt a giant panda at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. through persuasive letter writing to government officials and business leaders, car washes, and various other fund raisers.

At Catalina Ventura School, focus is placed on educating the child as a whole. By providing a well-rounded education, we better prepare our students for a successful future in a world that demands social as well as academic competency.

In April, 2008, we will be celebrating our Sixth Annual Character Counts Family Fun Night. We have recently been awarded two grants to help fund this event. One of the grants is in the amount of \$500 from the Well's Fargo Teacher Partner Program, and the other \$500 grant is from the Arizona Character Education Foundation, Fall Cycle Mini-Grant program. With this additional funding, we are anticipating that during this Family Fun Night we will have the opportunity to reach more people in need than ever before. It is an honor to watch our families of little means reach out to others who have even less. We are truly a community dedicated to making sure our CHARACTER always COUNTS!